

ANACAPA ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

CHAPTER FIVE CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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Coordination

Although Channel Islands National Park has identified Anacapa Island rat eradication as a priority for management with its inclusion in the 1985 GMP, it was not until the Island Conservation and Ecology Group (ICEG) submitted a rat eradication proposal (Tershey et al 1997) to the Park that a specific action was developed.

Because the primary benefactors of rat eradication on Anacapa Island are seabirds, the Park found support for the planning of the project through the American Traders Trustee Council (ATTC). The ATTC was formed as a result of an oil spill off of the Huntington Beach shore from the single-hull tanker *American Trader* in 1990. The ATTC is responsible for the dissemination of settlement monies paid by the oil carrier.

The ATTC was able to support the restoration planning for this project because the proposed activity primarily benefits seabirds and seabird habitat. Monetary support of the planning of this project was disseminated through a cooperative agreement between ATTC, NPS, and ICEG. The cooperative agreement outlined responsibilities of each party during the planning phase of this project. The Park will seek funding through ATTC to implement the decision that results from this analysis.

Public Involvement

The NEPA “scoping” process [40CFR 1501.7] was used to determine the scope of the analysis and to identify potential issues and opportunities related to the Proposed Action. A

summary of the scoping and public involvement process for the proposed project is as follows:

Internal Scoping

The Park has an extensive record of controlling rats on EAI. Through these efforts, the Park has collectively gained knowledge about the issues surrounding the presence of rats on the island. In addition, the Park has funded scientific studies that focus on the ecology and control of rats within the Park.

External Scoping

Island Conservation and Ecology Group(ICEG)

ICEG is a non-profit conservation group made up of American and Mexican conservation biologists, educators, and public officials working to protect biological communities on the over 250 islands in northwest Mexico and California. Since 1996, ICEG biologists have been studying the rat infestation on Anacapa Island and have advised the Park on ecological issues associated with rats on the island.

Vertebrate Pest Experts

As part of the Vertebrate Pest Conference held in San Diego, CA (3/6-9, 2000) vertebrate pest experts made a site visit to Anacapa Island to discuss the rat eradication project. Their comments and concerns were recorded and have been considered in this analysis.

General Public and Government Regulatory Agencies

The Park has made extensive efforts to inform and seek input from the general public and government regulatory agencies regarding the need to eradicate rats from Anacapa Island. These efforts include the following:

- 11/18/99 - Scoping letter sent to all interested publics who expressed an interest in Channel Islands National Park. This included all government regulatory agencies that may have oversight authority regarding the proposed action.
- 11/19/1999 – Park press release sent to all local media outlets. This resulted in stories regarding the proposed project in three local newspapers (Ventura Co. Star, Santa Barbara Newspress, and LA Times). Several out of area newspapers printed the article when the Associated Press distributed it on its AP wire. A Santa Barbara local TV station (Channel 6 KSBY) aired a story regarding the proposed project.
- 11/20/1999 – Park posted information on its World Wide Web (www) site. This included a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) summary regarding this project.
- 11/26/1999 – Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for this project was published in the Federal Register.
- 12/8/1999 – Public meeting held at the Park. Paid for ads and public notices announcing the meeting were published in three local newspapers (Santa Barbara Free Press, Ventura County Star, and the Los Angeles Times). A local radio station (KVEN 1520) covered the meeting and aired its story the following day.
- 7/7/2000 - Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS appeared in the Federal Register. Combined, the Park widely distributed paper copies or CD-ROM disks to over 100 government agencies, organizations, and individuals. In addition, the DEIS was made available on the Park's website. The Park also issued a press release to 50 local media outlets announcing the release of the DEIS. This resulted in at least two articles about

the project and the release of DEIS for comments (Santa Barbara Free Press and the LA Times).

- 9/5/2000 – This date ended the review period for the DEIS. At the end of this chapter is the Park's response to the substantive comments that were sent regarding the DEIS. Included is a full reprint of the letters the Park received on the DEIS.

List of Preparers

FEIS Preparation

Steve Ortega	Restoration Specialist	Channel Islands National Park
Gregg Howald	Wildlife Biologist [Ecotoxicology]	Island Conservation and Ecology Group

FEIS Review

Kate Faulkner	Natural Resources Division Chief	Channel Islands National Park
Tim Coonan	Branch Chief for Terrestrial Monitoring and Restoration	Channel Islands National Park
Allen Schmierer	Environmental Compliance Specialist	Pacific West Region – National Park Service

FEIS Technical Assistance

Cathy Schwemm GIS Channel
Specialist Islands
National Park

List of Recipients

Below is a list of all agencies, organizations, and individuals that will receive a copy of the FEIS.

In addition, the Park will notify the general public that the FEIS is available for comment by:

- Issuing a press release to the 50+ local media outlets that are part of the Park's Public Relations mailing list
- Placement of a legal notice in both the Santa Barbara News Press and the Ventura County Star
- Post the FEIS on the Park's website in PDF format

Government

- California Department of Fish & Game
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Ventura Office)
- Environmental Protection Agency (Washington Office)
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Coastal Commission
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- National Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Honorable Lois Capps

- Honorable Elton Gallegly
- City of Ventura

Organizations and Businesses

- Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
- National Wildlife Research Center
- Institute for Wildlife Studies
- The Nature Conservancy
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
- Catalina Island Conservancy
- Environmental Defense Center
- National Parks and Conservation Association
- California Native Plant Society
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation
- Pacific Seabird Group
- American Trader Trustee Council
- Island Packers
- National Audubon Society, Seabird Restoration Program
- Ventura Audubon Society
- Santa Cruz Island Foundation

Individuals

- Peter Triem
- Bruce Colvin
- Gillian Keys
- Deborah Jaques
- Charles Drost
- Desley Whisson
- Frank Gress
- Dan Anderson
- Lyndal Laughrin
- William Everett
- Dick Veitch
- Buck Hull
- Ole Barre
- Jack Gillooly
- Eiji Imamura
- Steve Junak
- Cristina Bren
- John Cloud
- Scott Cooper
- Jack Engle
- John Gherini
- Tom Gherini

- Michael A. Glassow
- Jeff Howarth
- Julie Tumamait-Stensile
- Adrian M. Wenner

The Park maintains a mailing list of individuals and organizations interested in the activities of Channel Islands National Park. A notice will be sent to this mailing list that notifies them of the availability of the FEIS. The notice will give instructions on how to request a copy of the FEIS or view it at the Park's website.

Response to Scoping Comments

At the public meeting comments were given regarding the project. In addition, the Park received five written comments on the proposal. The comments received on the proposal were either asking the Park to consider a certain alternative, or to consider certain impacts which may occur as a result of implementing the proposed action.

Alternatives

Three alternatives were recommended during the scoping period:

- Introduce predatory snakes
- Introduce neutered/spayed cats from animal shelters
- Use less toxic rodenticides

Each of these alternatives are discussed in Chapter II. The use of less toxic rodenticides was an alternative put forth to address the issue of non-target species poisoning. The issue of non-target species poisoning is discussed in Chapter IV Environmental Consequences.

Impacts

The comments the Park received on potential impacts to wildlife species asked that

the analysis include impact analysis for the following species:

- Raptors
- Anacapa Deer Mouse
- Pinnipeds

The Environmental Consequences section in Chapter Four address impacts to these species and others.

DEIS Comments and Responses

The following are letters that were received on the DEIS and the Park's response to the comments.